

THE RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM

POPULATION FACT SHEET: AUGUST 2012

AFRICAN-AMERICANS

Despite dramatic improvements in the delivery of HIV prevention, testing, counseling, treatment, and care services within underserved communities in the United States, African-Americans* continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV. The lifetime risk of HIV is far higher among African-Americans than any other ethnic group, particularly in relation to Whites. In 2009, the rate of new HIV infections in Black men was 6 times that in White men, and the rate in African-American women was 15 times the rate in White women.^{1,**}

SURVEILLANCE

- Blacks account for approximately 14 percent of the total U.S. population, yet represented an estimated 44 percent of new HIV infections in 2009.²
- The AIDS rate for Blacks was nearly 10 times that of Whites in 2010.³
- African-Americans accounted for nearly one-half of all AIDS-related deaths in 2009.⁴
- In 2009, Black men accounted for 70 percent of estimated new HIV infections among all Blacks.⁵

* Different data sources use different terms for this population. For the purposes of this fact sheet, the terms African-American and Black are used to refer to all people of African descent in the United States, its territories, and possessions.

** Unless otherwise noted, HIV estimates and diagnoses are gleaned from data provided by 46 U.S. States (Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Vermont are not included) and 5 U.S. dependent areas (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

U.S. dependent areas, however, are not included in reference to HIV among specific racial and ethnic groups, since the U.S. Census Bureau does not collect demographic information from all dependent areas.

AIDS surveillance data are based on reports submitted by all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and 6 U.S. dependent areas (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Republic of Palau, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

- In 2009 most (85 percent) Black women with HIV acquired HIV through high-risk heterosexual contact.⁶
- There is a disproportionate impact of HIV among young Black men who have sex with men (YMSM) ages 13 to 29. From 2006 to 2009, this group experienced a 48 percent increase in new HIV infections.⁷

CRITICAL ISSUES

More than 27 percent of all African-Americans lived in poverty—compared to less than 10 percent of non-Hispanic Whites—and more than 20 percent did not have health insurance;⁸ these issues impeded health care access which may lead to delayed HIV diagnoses and entry into HIV primary care. At 47 percent, Blacks constitute a disproportionate percentage of the homeless population;⁹ lack of stable housing can disrupt HIV primary care and has been associated with lower retention rates. African-Americans also are disproportionately impacted by common HIV coinfections, including tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, and hepatitis which can further complicate HIV treatment and care.¹⁰

The rate of AIDS among prison and jail inmates—disproportionately African-American—is estimated to be about 2.4 times higher than that among the general population.¹¹ Higher incarceration rates within communities leads to a loss of available men which can disrupt social networks and may lead to risky behavior.

Because African-American women are less likely than other women to date men outside their racial/ethnic group, the higher rates of HIV infection among African-American men have important implications for African-American women's HIV risk, particularly as the majority of infections are a result of high-risk heterosexual sex.¹²

A study among Black MSM conducted between June 2004 and April 2005 in five U.S. cities found that 46 percent were HIV positive and 67 percent of these men were unaware of their status underscoring the need for increased prevention, outreach, and engagement of this population.¹³



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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HIV/AIDS BUREAU'S RESPONSE

In 2010, 47 percent of all Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program clients were African-American, and were served through all Program Parts.*

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HIV/AIDS Bureau supports numerous mechanisms to bolster and develop community-based health care networks serving African-Americans that reduce barriers to early HIV identification and ensure entry to state-of-the-art primary health care. For example, HRSA provides support in the form of comprehensive training and Minority AIDS Initiative funding to grantees and providers seeking ways to build their cultural competency and HIV care service delivery capacity within African-American communities.

Grantees and providers also can access numerous interactive trainings and guidance, fact sheets, training manuals, and presentations, including *BE SAFE: A Cultural Competency Model*

* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB). 2010 *Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Services Report*.

for African Americans and *The Impact of Stigma on HIV Care Access in the African American Community*.^{14,15}

A forthcoming edition of *HRSA CAREAction* will discuss provider innovations in engaging African-American women into care. The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Living History Web site features a video recounting the experience of Curtis, a formerly incarcerated African-American man, as he rebuilds his life and engages in care. (See <http://hab.hrsa.gov/livinghistory/voices/curtis.htm>.) Additionally, HRSA's Living History Web site features an essay about HRSA's response to the epidemic among African-Americans.

HRSA has facilitated research initiatives to demonstrate and evaluate innovative models of care targeting Black populations heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS, including young MSM and women. Currently, HRSA is gleaning best practices from these and other programs concerning the engagement of hard-to-reach populations into care for inclusion in an upcoming training manual, curriculum, and Webinar. In addition, HRSA has engaged in community consultations and collaborations with national agencies addressing HIV among African-Americans, including the National Minority AIDS Council and HealthHIV.

NOTES

- ¹ Prejean J, Song R, Hernandez A, et al. Estimated HIV incidence in the United States, 2006–2009. *PLoS ONE*. August 2011;6(8):e17502. Accessed March 20, 2012.
- ² U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *HIV among African Americans*. Fact sheet. November 2011. Available at: www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/aa/PDF/aa.pdf. Accessed June 29, 2012.
- ³ CDC. *HIV Surveillance Report*, 2010; vol. 22. Table 2a. Available at: www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/. Published March 2012. Accessed June 29, 2012.
- ⁴ CDC. *Epidemiology of HIV infection through 2010*. March 23, 2012. Available at: www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/general/slides/general.pdf. Accessed March 28, 2012.
- ⁵ CDC. *HIV among African Americans*. Fact sheet. November 2011. Available at: www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/aa/PDF/aa.pdf. Accessed June 29, 2012.
- ⁶ CDC. *HIV among African Americans*. Fact sheet. November 2011. Available at: www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/aa/PDF/aa.pdf. Accessed June 29, 2012.
- ⁷ CDC. *HIV among African Americans*. Fact sheet. November 2011. Available at: www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/aa/PDF/aa.pdf. Accessed June 29, 2012.
- ⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. *Income, poverty, and health insurance coverage in the United States: 2010*. September 2011. Available at: www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf. Accessed March 15, 2012.
- ⁹ U.S. Conference of Mayors. *Hunger and homelessness survey. A status report on hunger and homelessness in America's cities—A 23-city survey, December 2007*. December 2007. Available at: <http://usmayors.org/hungersurvey/2006/report06.pdf>. Accessed April 16, 2012.
- ¹⁰ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). *2010 National Healthcare Disparities Report*. March 2012. Available at: www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhdr10/nhdr10.pdf. Accessed March 23, 2012.
- ¹¹ Maruschak LM, Beavers R. HIV in Prisons, 2007–08. *U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin*. 2010. Available at: bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=1747.
- ¹² National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD). *The landscape of HIV/AIDS among African-American women in the United States*. African-American Women's Issue Brief No. 1. Washington, DC:NASTAD;2008.
- ¹³ NASTAD. *Findings from targeted interviews on HIV prevention activities directed toward Black men who have sex with men (MSM)*. Black MSM Issue Brief No. 3. Washington, DC:NASTAD;2008.
- ¹⁴ McNeil J, Campinha-Bacote J, Tapscott E, Vample G [Eds]. *BE SAFE: A cultural competency model for African Americans*. 2002. Available at: www.aidsctc.org/aidsctc?page=etres-display&resource=etres-95. Accessed May 21, 2012.
- ¹⁵ Lee D. Northwest AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC) and African Americans Reach and Teach Health. *Impact of stigma on HIV care access in the African American community*. October 2008. Available at: www.aidsctc.org/aidsctc?page=etres-display&resource=etres-403. Accessed May 21, 2012.

This publication lists non-Federal resources to provide additional information. The views and content in those resources have not been formally approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Listing of the resources is not an endorsement by HHS or its components.